MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 FEBRUARY 1982

Reaction to UN General Assembly Resolution

The Israeli Cabinet issued an official announcement, carried by ITIM, condemning as invalid the UN General Assembly's resolution calling on member-states to boycott and impose sanctions on Israel. The announcement said the General Assembly's automatic anti-Israeli majority has again demonstrated that the United Nations is not an instrument for peace but has become a tool in the hands of hostile countries for spreading their hatred and hypocrisy and undermining the peace and security of nations. The Cabinet expressed gratitude to the 21 democratic states that voted against the resolution, noting also that many countries had abstained. It criticized representatives of countries which for over 30 years have refused to make peace or negotiate for determining that Israel is not a peace-seeking country, and a superpower that invaded Afghanistan and drove the Polish Government to establish a regime of oppression for preaching to anyone about expansionism. Jerusalem radio reported that the official announcement, which was formulated by Prime Minister Menahem Begin, was approved at the 7 February Cabinet meeting despite objections by some ministers to the harsh expressions against the Soviet Union. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the UN resolution will not deter Israel from seeking a negotiated peace with all neighboring states; the Jerusalem POST reported. The spokesman described the resolution as "unjust, illogical, unbalanced and part of a chain of UN resolutions that attempt to undermine Israel's existence," and said it is basically flawed by its failure to call for a negotiated peace settlement.

According to SANA, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said the UN resolution was a victory that affirms the international community's rejection of aggression and racism and its determination to achieve a just and lasting Middle East peace based on the UN Charter and resolutions. Referring to the paragraph of the resolution that declares that Israel does not love peace and has not abided by the UN Charter, Khaddam said the stipulation that the United Nations resort to other measures if this resolution fails to be implemented means that the organization would discuss suspending Israel's General Assembly membership. According to Beirut radio, Khaddam told the Lebanese paper AN-NAHAR that the resolution ends the legitimacy of Israel's UN membership.

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio cited a WAFA commentary on the vote that strongly criticized the United States for supporting Israel. Asserting that the United States must be seen as "directly responsible for whatever this international outlaw does," WAFA said the claim that the United States is pressuring Israel to moderate its policy is a hollow sham to disguise the fact that Israel does exactly as it pleases and, more often than not, does so with express or implicit U.S. approval.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak held talks at Chequers with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on 6 February, MENA reported. Before departing Britain for the FRG the following day, Mubarak said in a press conference broadcast by Cairo radio that his talks had covered bilateral relations and international issues, particularly the Middle East problem, the autonomy talks and the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers. According to MENA, Foreign Undersecretary Usamah al-Baz revealed that Prime Minister Thatcher accepted an invitation from Mubarak to visit Egypt.

According to DPA, Mubarak met with FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn on 8 February.

Earlier, in a 5 February Washington press conference, carried by MENA, President Mubarak said that when Egypt asserts that any declaration of principles on autonomy must be accepted by the Palestinians, it is not introducing a new condition. Egypt is not suggesting that the autonomy negotiators seek the Palestinians' prior approval before agreeing on a declaration, he said, but rather it is simply saying that all sides should realize the need to

attract other Arab parties to the peace process. Contending that a bad agreement is worse than no agreement, he said Egypt will consent to a "good formula" that is likely to win the approval of the many moderate Palestinians. Commenting on U.S. aid to Egypt, he urged U.S. private capital to be more forthcoming, claiming there are no risks involved in investing in Egypt, which is socially and politically stable.

Detailing the distribution of 64 Soviet experts among Egyptian industrial plants, he said their coming to Egypt has no political significance. In a commentary on the same issue, Cairo radio said Egypt wants normal relations with the Soviet Union.

Foreign Under Secretary al-Baz, in an interview broadcast by Monte Carlo radio, said that while the United States has not promised to hold a dialogue with the Palestinians, Egypt noticed in the recent talks in Washington that the U.S. administration was more receptive to the idea than before. Asserting that the U.S. stand on the Palestinian issue has "improved a little," Al-Baz said the talks helped increase the Reagan administration's understanding that it must get closer to recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Syria

Khaddam on Soviet Support -- Foreign Minister Khaddam, in an interview with the Paris magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL, affirmed that any aggression against Syria will call for the implementation of the provisions of the Syrian-Soviet treaty of friendship and cooperation. Israel and the United States realize very well what this means, he added.

Security Situation -- AFP reported that road traffic between Turkey and Syria has been disrupted by clashes between police and the Muslim Brotherhood in the port of Lataria. According to Jerusalem television, Syria has been forced to close its border with Turkey as a result of the unrest. However, monitored Syrian media have not reported any closure of the border. Citing Arab sources in Beirut, Jerusalem radio reported that the Syrian Army rushed armored units to Hamah to quell a popular uprising in that city.

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Amal movement Command Council Chairman Nabih Birri and National Movement Executive Secretary General Muhsin Ibrahim met on 7 February to review recent factional clashes in the south, where another incident had occurred in the town of Ansar the previous day. After the meeting, Birri said they had reached a final and permanent agreement on specific measures that will affect the area. Asserting that the agreement is designed to deter any security setback in the future, Muhsin Ibrahim said the meeting was "one of the most successful ever held" and its positive results "place enormous responsibilities on our shoulders."

Reporting that an atmosphere of responsibility and frankness prevailed during the meeting, the Voice of Palestine accused "organizations linked with Israel and the Deuxieme Bureau" of "expanding and fanning the clashes and pushing them to the point of no return."

Israel

Jerusalem radio reported that the Prime Minister's Office totally denied TIME magazine's report that Prime Minister Begin last week rejected a proposal by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon to launch an operation in Lebanon. MA'ARIV subsequently cited Sharon as saying that Israel planned no extensive operation whatsoever on the Lebanese border.

PLO

In a commentary on U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's 5 February press conference, the Voice of Palestine rejected Haig's view that the dispatch of weapons to the Palestinian forces in Lebanon contributes to instability and affirmed that neither Haig nor Philip Habib will succeed in restricting the Palestinian revolution's ability to develop its weapons in quality and quantity.

Gulf Affairs

GCC Meeting -- Following the extraordinary meeting in Bahrain of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers, the Ministerial Council issued a statement that declared full support for Bahrain's determination to resist "the acts of sabotage that are carried out by Iran to undermine security and stability, spread chaos and confusion and threaten the interests of citizens." The GCC statement, which was carried by WAKH, also noted Iraq's readiness to find a just solution to its war with Iran and called on the latter to respond to international efforts to find a peaceful solution safeguarding the legitimate rights of the warring parties. The GCC supports Iraq's request for a unified Arab stand on the war at the forthcoming Arab summit conference, the statement added.

WAKH reported that in a press conference after the meeting, Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah said the ministers reached mutual agreement to answer any attack on or intervention in the internal affairs of the Gulf states. However, he said the GCC states do not wish to confront anyone or to intervene in the affairs of others.

Saudi Defense Minister's Interview -- In a lengthy interview with the London magazine AL-HAWADITH, Saudi Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said that if any outside state threatens the GCC member-states, the latter will stand together "as one state." Asserting that the GCC states want friendship with Iran, Prince Sultan called for an end to the Iran-Iraq war so that Iran and the Arab states can restore good relations. He also called on Arab leaders to "live up to their responsibilities" at the next Arab summit conference. Asked whether Saudi Arabia has decided to become a confrontation state in the Arab-Israeli conflict, Prince Sultan said the entire Arab nation is a confrontation state against Israel. Regarding Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's visit to the kingdom, Prince Sultan expressed interest in the purchase of more sophisticated U.S. weapons, subject to the armed forces' capacity to absorb new weapons.

Weinberger Visit -- Secretary of Defense Weinberger arrived in Riyadh on 6 February and began talks with Prince Sultan and other Saudi military officials the following day, SPA reported. According to Jerusalem radio, the focal point of Weinberger's talks in Saudi Arabia is the U.S. plan for a new arms deal with Gulf states whereby the latter will manufacture U.S. arms.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi military communique carried by INA stated that an Iranian fighter plane was shot down in the central sector on 6 February. A subsequent communique carried by INA claimed that in a lightning assault on 6-7 February Iraqi forces expelled the Iranians from their main positions in the Bostan sector. According to the communique, the battle was still in progress and going in Iraq's favor. The communique also claimed that the Iraqis carried out raids against enemy positions in the Shush, Ahvaz and Susangerd areas, and said 243 Iranians were killed and much enemy equipment destroyed in the previous 24 hours.

An Iranian military communique carried by Tehran radio said the Iraqis launched a series of operations on one of the southern fronts but were foiled and forced to retreat to defensive positions. According to the communique, Iranian artillery forces on the Western fronts fired on enemy positions and "defended their own allocated regions and guarded their own positions." AFP reported that an Iranian military spokesman said the Iraqi claim of having pushed back Iranian forces in the Bostan area was "just propaganda."

At a press conference reported by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister and Popular Army Commander Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the Popular Army, which now numbers 370,000 fully trained and equipped fighters, will increase its strength to 470,000 by the end of the year. According to Ramadan, 60,00 fighters are currently deployed on the battlefront. He added that citizens from several Arab countries, especially Egypt and Syria, are being trained for battle by two sections of the army. Ramadan also said that 10,000 to 12,000 Arab volunteers have carried out their "militant duties,"

expressed the hope that other Arab countries would follow Jordan's example, but admitted that aside from Jordan, no other Arab country has informed Iraq it is opening the door to volunteers.

Iran

Citing London oil sources, KUNA reported that Iran has cut the price of its oil to $33.55 a barrel, thus undercutting the Arabian light price by 45 cents a barrel.

Sudan

Assembly Meeting -- President Ja'far Numayri summoned the People's Assembly to meet on 22 February, Omdurman radio reported.

Libyan Claims -- Citing "sources in close touch with Sudanese affairs," Tripoli radio claimed that at the 17-21 January meetings of Sudanese leaders, all the elements on whom Numayri relied opposed his decisions and actions. According to the same sources, Numayri was told at a meeting with senior army commanders that the army is not prepared to act against the Sudanese people. The radio said Numayri was asked to resign at this meeting because he was sick and incapable of ruling.

Tripoli radio claimed that on 6 February five soldiers and three officers were executed for storming the presidential headquarters in an attempt to assassinate Numayri. The radio said that earlier last week 13 officers and men were executed for rebellion and circulation of leaflets opposing the regime.

Afghanistan

In an authorized announcement, BAKHTAR branded as "entirely incorrect" Western reports alleging that Afghan and Soviet planes bombed Qandahar, that hundreds were killed and most of its citizens left, and that Soviet forces in Afghanistan are resorting to terror against civilians in areas where counterrevolutionaries are active.

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BAKHTAR DENIES AFGHANS, SOVIETS BOMB QANDAHAR

LD070548 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 7 Feb 82

[Text] Kabul, 6 Feb (BAKHTAR) -- The Western bourgeoisie's mass media has recently published false reports alleging the airforce planes of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to have bombed the city of Qandahar. They have published false stories alleging that hundreds of peoples have been killed and that most of Qandahar citizens have left that city.

They have also alleged that the Soviet Union's limited contingent forces in Afghanistan are resorting to terror against civilian people in the areas where counterrevolutionary bands are active.

The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY is authorised to announce that these baseless accusations of Western propaganda are entirely incorrect. The situation in Qandahar is calm and the life there is normal with all state organisations, industrial and commercial establishments active as normal.

The filthy purposes of imperialist sources for making such accusations about the situation in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan are quite clear. They want to mislead the world public opinion about the situation in Afghanistan and around it and to distort the realities of the situation in the country.

Pictures given by the imperialist sources concerning the situation in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan can be imagined only by the sick thoughts of the initiators of this filthy propaganda war.

Can anybody consider as terror the defence of the toiling people of Afghanistan by the country's patriotic and heroic armed forces against the counterrevolutionary bands exported from abroad to our country?

The conspiracies of the enemies of revolutionary Afghanistan will not be able to disrupt the stability in the country, the way they have failed in the past, because in pace with the consolidation of revolutionary power in the country, vast strata of the toilers are gathering around the revolution.

PLANNING COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH USSR

LD062048 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Feb 82

[Text] A joint Afghan-Soviet planning cooperation protocol was signed and exchanged this morning at the conclusion of the Afghan-Soviet Planning Cooperation Subcommittee meeting held in Kabul from 27 January to 6 February.

According to the protocol, the Soviet Union will cooperate in (?expediting) and [word indistinct] the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by drawing up plans and programs, and will assist in regulating our country's planning affairs.

It is anticipated that computers will be used in the regional planning in [word indistinct] annual planning, long-term programs and written methodology, [as heard], evaluating and implementing plans, economic (?services) and training Afghan personnel in USSR planning institutions.

Soviet Delegation Departs

GF071750 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 7 Feb 82

[Text] The high-ranking delegation of the Soviet Union's State Planning Committee led by Bulgakov, member of the Consultative Council of the State Planning Committee [title as heard] of that country, left for their country today after an official visit. The Soviet delegation attended the meetings of the Planning Cooperation Subcommission in Kabul.

'TERRORISTS, COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' ROUTED

Mohmand Tribesmen

GF041710 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] According to reports received, during a recent clash between elements inimical to the Afghan revolution and Mohmand tribesman of the Durkhel clan in the (Shahab Kohi) area, a member of the Golbadin group who was also the leader of the (?terrorist) group, (?Mohammad Hakim), was killed while two other members of his group were wounded. The incident took place when a group of counterrevolutionaries was waiting in ambush for a motor vehicle belonging to the (?defense council). The (?defense council) was warned of the impending ambush and attacked the highwaymen. As a result a bitter battle took place between the two sides.

According to reports received, the said criminal elements could not stand up to the Durkhel clansmen and fled the region.

Band in Qonduz

GF041635 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] According to a report by a source of the security forces in Qonduz Province, a band of counterrevolutionary elements -- these enemies of tranquillity in fabric of our people in our beloved homeland, who were disrupting the tranquillity of the toiling people of Qal'eh-ye Zal county of Qonduz Province -- were recently crushed by the revolutionary defense group and security forces. The source adds: Various types of weapons were seized from these (?bandits).

Arrests in Faryab

LD052020 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Text] Twenty-seven terrorists and subversive individuals were arrested and a large number of them were crushed in Faryab Province.

According to a report, for a while now the rebel bands have been annoying and causing trouble to the noble and toiling people of the villages of Qazel Walia, (Qazel Qodos) and (Sorkh-Aib) in Faryab Province; and by plundering and robbing have disrupted security.

By arresting and crushing the mercenary bands, the toiling people of the above villages resumed their peaceful life.

The report adds that our valiant and brave security force seized 30 assorted weapons and 10,000 rounds of ammunition.

Surrender in Takhar

GF071711 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Nine residents of the Qarah Baghi village in Takhar Province, who were deceived by the so-called Jami'at-e Eslami terrorist band but who recently became aware of the true meaning of the Sawr Revolution and the human and progressive goals of the party and government, have joined the toilers and laid down their arms. They have expressed support for the defense of the fruits of the Sawr Revolution.

These persons have surrendered to the security forces of this province and have handed over 1 U.S.-made 11-shot rifle, 1 British 303-mm caliber rifle, 2 Chinese Kalashnikovs, handgrenades and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. They have also expressed sorrow for their past actions against the revolutionary government and people and have extended their support and readiness to defend the fruits of the Sawr Revolution.

F-16 SALE SHOWS U.S. 'LACK OF UNDERSTANDING'

BK080740 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Feb 82

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has said that the United States' F-16 deal with Pakistan indicates its utter lack of understanding of India's position. She said the sale has added tremendously to India's burdens and has brought dangers and pressures much closer to our borders.

In her interview with an American magazine, she said the sale of the sophisticated F-16's to Pakistan raises the threat of an attack.

Referring to the buildup of the U.S. naval units in the Indian Ocean, Mrs Gandhi said that such a buildup acts as a destabilizing force in the region.

The prime minister reiterated that India regards the United States as a friend but she said: We do feel we are rebuffed.

She also said that the United States overestimates the closeness of India's ties with the Soviet Union. Although we are friendly with the Soviets, that friendship does not affect the decision we take on any international, national matters, said the prime minister.

On relations with China, Mrs Gandhi said easing of tensions between the two countries depends on the Chinese attitude. She said there has been some forward movement in relations between India and China. An Indian official team which went to Beijing recently had a fairly good visit, she added.

U.S. DECISION ON INDIAN SECESSIONIST PROTESTED

BK061607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Feb 82

[Text] India today conveyed its serious concern and unhappiness to the United States for granting a visa to Dr Jagjit Singh Chowhan, whose anti-India and secessionist activities have led to invalidation of his passport.

External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao today conveyed India's concern to U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes who was called to the Foreign Office.

FORMER COMMUNIST LEADER DENIED USSR VISA

BK080933 Hong Kong AFP in English 0433 GMT 7 Feb 82

[Excerpts] New Delhi, 7 Feb (AFP) -- S.A. Dange, veteran communist leader and president of the All-India Trade Union Congress, has been refused a visa to visit Moscow on his way to Havana to attend a meeting of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), UNI news agency reported today.

No explanation was given for the Soviet refusal.

ASSAM UNION THREATENS ACTION AGAINST GOVERNMENT

BK051359 Hong Kong AFP in English 0905 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Text] New Delhi, 5 Feb (AFP) -- A representative body of government employees in agitation-rocked Assam state in northern India today threatened to take action unless the government immediately withdrew all "punitive" measures against members who took part in anti-foreigner demonstrations.

Reports quoted Kamakhya Charan Choudhury, president of the Coordination Committee of the All-Assam (Government) Employees Council, as telling a press conference at Gauhati, the Assamese capital, that the administration had deliberately misinterpreted the employees' participation. This was done in order to take "repressive" measures against the employees, he alleged.

He said 10 employees had been killed in police action during the agitation.

It was reported earlier that a large number of government employees participated in general strikes called from time to time in defiance of warnings by higher authorities.

PLAN OUTLAY FOR STATES FOR 1982-83 INCREASED

BK061102 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Feb 82

[Text] The plan outlay of almost all the states for 1982-83 has been increased by an average of 16.64 percent. The planning commission has fixed the outlay at over 88,000 million rupees for 1982-83. This is about 12,000 million rupees more in the outlay for the current financial year. The increase ranges between 5 percent in the case of Jammu and Kashmir and is highest -- 38.32 percent -- for Tamil Nadu. However, there is no increase in the outlays of Kerala and Rajasthan because of overdrafts.

The annual plan for West Bengal for the coming year could not be finalized since the state government has not yet given certain information required by the planning commission. The planning commission is likely to have another round of discussions with the West Bengal government before finalizing its plan.

CPI-M CONCERNED WITH U.S. WAR DANGER TO USSR

BK060446 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Jan 82 p 9

[Text] Vijayawada, 28 Jan -- The Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M] general secretary, Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, yesterday said the ideological differences within the world communist movement did not figure in the agenda of his party's 11th congress now in session here. He said his party was more concerned with the "growing danger of war" and the aggressive designs of the USA against Russia.

The CPI-M leadership considered that "any refusal to give priority to the struggle for peace and struggle against the USA's aggressive design is the worst form of revisionism and sectarianism," he said.

Briefing reporters on the second day of the 5-day session of the party congress presided over by the five-member presidium headed by Mr H. K. Surjit, Mr Namboodiripad said his party's stand in relation to the two major communist parties, the Russian and the Chinese, remained unchanged. However he said his party thought that the present time was not appropriate for a discussion on the ideological questions in the international communist movement.

Mr Namboodiripad, referring to the draft political resolution of his party, said despite the fact that Russia was under attack by the USA, the Chinese Communist Party concentrated its fire against the Soviet Union. Secondly, Mr Namboodiripad said the draft political resolution also pointed out that the Chinese leaders themselves had admitted that they were co-ordinating their foreign policy with that of the USA. The Chinese leadership also supported U.S. actions and manoeuvres in pursuit of global domination and war-thrust against Russia, Mr Namboodiripad said.

He also told reporters that spokesmen of the major state units of his party had generally endorsed the political line of the party's central leadership of creating a broad front of all political parties to fight against "growing authoritarianism of the Congress-I" and striving simultaneously for building left unity and left and democratic front. [sentence as published] A few suggestions had also been made by them.

According to Mr Namboodiripad, those spokesmen were from West Bengal, Kerala, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Assam. He added that their suggestions had not altered the basic political line laid down by the party's central leadership in the draft political resolution being discussed by the party congress.

PTI adds: Criticism of China has evoked adverse response from the representatives of West Bengal and Kerala.

While extending general support to the draft resolution, they are understood to have expressed reservations over the wisdom of the central leadership trying for a unity with the Congress-S, Janata and the Lok Dal, at the national level.

Soviet Tilt Criticized

BK060440 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] Vijayawada, 28 Jan -- The Communist Party of India-Marxist's [CPI-M] central leadership was today sharply criticized by delegates at the 11th party congress on the third day here for documenting a complete tilt in favour of the Russian Communist Party and antipathy to the Chinese communist leadership in the draft political resolution prepared by it for the congress.

The critics of the central leadership's international line made a forceful demand for toning down its criticism of the Chinese Communist Party and reversing the tilt in favour of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The critics also demanded that the central leadership reiterate its disapproval, as it had done in the past, in the draft political resolution of the Russian Communist Party's policy of supporting Mrs Gandhi's Government and ignoring her government's "anti-democratic practices at home." The opponents of the official line wanted the draft political resolution to mention the "revisionist policies" of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and demanded that the central leadership put on record the "failure" of the Communist Parties of Russia and China to support revolutionary struggles and democratic movements of exploited peoples in the former colonial countries.

Briefing reporters on the debate in the congress, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, general-secretary of the CPI-M, said the steering committee of the congress, comprising all Politburo members, had rejected the various suggestions and criticism by delegates. Mr Namboodiripad and Mr M. Basavapunnaiah, a Politburo member, said the delegates had been told that discussions on ideological differences in the world co unist movement were not on the agenda of the party's 11th congress. They said the stee ing committee considered the "war threat" posed by the USA against socialist Russia of m e concern to it than questions of ideological issues in the international communist movement.

However, both Mr Namboodiripad and Mr Basavapunnaiah said critics of the official line had been given the choice by the steering committee to place their suggestions and criticism in the form of amendments to the draft political resolution and seek the approval of the congress.

The debate on the central leadership's official line on the national situation is in progress and will continue till noon tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the congress today adopted a resolution on Assam to register its protest against the imposition of a "minority Congress-I government in that state." The installation of the Gogol ministry was termed by the congress a "blatant abuse of the powers by the governor," who it was alleged, had acted as a willing tool of the Congress-I. The resolution said that by "ignoring the repeated claims of the left democratic alliance in Assam, which had commanded a clear majority in the state assembly," the ruling Congress-I had "exposed its authoritarian character."

PTI adds: Two Marxist chief ministers today called for more autonomy to the states and decentralization of power to strengthen the unity and integrity of the country and accelerate its progress.

HAQ ON ELECTIONS, INDIA-PAKISTAN TALKS

BK071034 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 7 Feb 82

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the Federal Cabinet in its meeting on the 10th of this month will discuss and decide the question of channelizing the political activities in the country. He was talking to newsmen on his arrival at Lahore this morning on a short visit to the provincial capital.

The president said that with the setting up of the Federal Council a political process has now been initiated. He said the question of how to channelize the political activities is being reviewed by him and the provincial governors.

Replying to a question about the holding of elections in the country the president said that he had never said that elections would not be held. Sooner or later, the election process will have to be initiated. The president emphasized that the elections should lead to stability and not to instability. Recalling his oftrepeated appeal to the people to work together for the country's good, the president said that it was not his intention to stay at the helm of affairs for an indefinite period.

When the president's attention was drawn to the statements of certain political leaders to the fact that the 1973 Constitution had been abrogated and that measures were underway for the induction of a new constitution, the president said that the 1973 Constitution continued to be a valid document which for the time being had been held in abeyance.

Questioned about the outcome of the recent Indo-Pak foreign ministers talks in New Delhi the president said that he had received quite an encouraging report about it from Agha Shahi. He described the first round of talks as very good and positive.

In reply to a question about the Afghanistan crisis he said some headway has been made in the efforts aimed at its political solution.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON TERRORISM, MARTIAL LAW

GF061248 Karachi DAWN in English 5 Feb 82 p 18

[Text] The federal interior minister, Mr Mahmud A. Haroon, said that 481 terrorists, out of the 1,000 sent to Afghanistan for training by terrorist group headed by the sons of the executed prime minister, were rounded up by the government.

In a lengthy interview with BBC on Thursday [4 February] night, Mr Mahmud A. Haroon said that this group was a dangerous organisation and its trained terrorists would come to Pakistan on different occasions according to the instructions they receive in Kabul. They would make attempt to go back to Kabul if they got a chance. They were recruiting other people also from wherever possible and the threats to the government still exist, he added.

Some of the arrested terrorists have made confessions before the authorities, Mr Haroon said, and added that they would be sent up for trial which would begin soon. The charge-sheets against them would also include the charge of "treason", he said.

The trials would be held in military courts so that cases against them could be decided early, the federal interior minister said. The government would avoid legal complications of the ordinary courts which normally take two years or for that matter five years to decide the case, Mr Haroon told the BBC correspondent.

He said that anti-terrorist cells have been set up at the federal as well as provincial levels and other steps were also being taken.

Regarding criticism of the government, Mr Mahmud Haroon said he expected such criticism as martial law in Pakistan was soft and not so harsh as it was practised in other countries with military governments.

Commenting on Amnesty International's recent charges of flogging and torture of political prisoners, Mr Haroon said that there was martial law in the country and anybody defying the laws of the land could be punished and flogging was a part of punishment under certain martial law regulations, he said.

In reply to a question, Mr Mahmud Haroon defined a political prisoner as a person who was in politics, no matter how remote are his links with politics, or he was an important personality whose trial or conviction in a court was not desirable.

When asked why some people were kept under detention without any charge-sheet or trial, Mr Haroon said politicians could incite the people while remaining within the limits of law and some of them were clever enough so that they could disturb peace with impunity.

He denied the impression that there was outside pressure on the government to nominate or install a nominated majlis-i-shoora. If that was the case, Mr Haroon said, the outside pressure group would not have accepted a nominated majlis-i-shoora.

Quoting a statement of the chairman of the majlis-i-shoora, Mr Haroon said about 105 members spoke during the current session and most of them criticised some of the government decisions. And more people wanted to speak during the coming session, he added. He was of the opinion that the successful functioning of majlis-i-shoora was the first step towards democracy and also towards attending to the complaints of the people by the government, he concluded.

PML'S PIR PAGARO DENIES TALKS WITH MRD

GF061136 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Feb 82 pp 1, 12

[By staff reporter]

[Text] Pir Sahib Pagaro, president of the defunct PML [Pakistan Muslim League], said in Karachi on Wednesday that his PLM-JUB [Jamaat-i-Ulema-i Pakistan] alliance did not at any stage enter into talks with the MRD [Movement for Restoration of Democracy] but has been negotiating with the individual parties within and outside the MRD.

He said, the PML-JUP alliance had its six-point programme comprising the five points which he mentioned in his letter of June 9, 1980, to President Ziaul Haq, and the sixth added subsequently, pertaining to the Islamisation of laws.

Khwaja Khairuddin, he said, came with a five-point plan out of which, he said, he put the cross mark against three. A portion of the fourth he placed within brackets, Pir Sahib said, meaning that he only accepted one and a half points.

Khwaja Saheb left with the promise to consult friends and meet again, but instead came the MRD's announcement about the failure of the talks which Pir Pagaro termed as "uncalled for."

Pir Pagaro talked to newsmen at his residence where among those present were Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani and Prof Shah Faridul Haq (JUP), Prof Ghafoor Ahmad (Jamaat-i-Islami), and Mr Bostan Ali Hoti (PML's Karachi zone chief).

He clarified that the doors for talks with any individual party were always open and that any party believing in the democratic process was welcome to join the PML-JUP alliance.

A correspondent asked whether the alliance would be prepared to talk to the PPP [Pakistan's People's Party] should it so desire. Pir Sahib said: "Surely, yes" but hastened to add that if the PPP joined "our fold" it will be examined how it fitted into the "protocol" of the alliance. Personally, he would give the PPP, say, a fourth rank after the PML, JUP and the JUI [Jamaat-i-Ulema-i-Islam]. He doubted whether the MRD's decision to call off the talks with PML-JUP alliance was a "unanimous one."

He said that Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and Sardar Sherbaz Khan Mazari, among the MRD leaders could not, on principle, approve of the MRD's attitude.

In support of his contention he disclosed that an MRD representative called on him on Wednesday [3 February] morning and conveyed to him a message. Pressed to reveal the identity, Pir Sahib said it was Mr Mushtaq Mirza of the defunct Pakistan Democratic Party (PDP) who explained that he had received a phone call from Lahore and had come to meet him (Pir Sahib) accordingly.

Elucidating the PML-JUP alliance's six-point formula, Pir Pagaro said it urged the present government to incorporate "rightaway" an amendment in the 1973 Constitution regarding the distribution of powers between the president and the prime minister as provided in the 1956 Constitution. For, he explained, "We do not want a future prime minister to have unbridled powers so that he could do anything -- good or bad -- at his sweet will."

He said the alliance wanted the induction of, what he termed, the "political government," representing the "registered" parties as well as representatives of the "unregistered" parties in their individual capacity. Such "apolitical government" might, if it so desired, get the "unregistered" parties "registered," he added.

Ruling out the proposition of the lifting of martial law, Pir Sahib asked how was it possible for any other political element to dispense with abruptly the responsibilities which the G.H.Q. (army high command) had been carrying out since 1953.

He emphasised that the "political government," whenever formed at the centre, would operate under the umbrella of the martial law with the specific purpose of getting the power ultimately transferred to the people.

This position, he maintained, had been explained to Khwaja Khairuddin, president of the defunct PML (Khairuddin group), when he met him last as well as to the PPP (leadership) before the formation of the MRD.

Pir Pagaro said Khwaja Khairuddin, during his meeting, produced a five-point document, requesting for the alliance's elucidation. Three points, he added, were crossed straightaway, one was accepted, and one-half portion of the fifth was rejected.

On the question of the rights of minority provinces, Pir Sahib said he told Khwaja Khairuddin that these rights were adequately safeguarded in the 1973 Constitution and, therefore, could not be taken as a "separate point" for discussion. Motivations of this demand have (been known during) the course of second or third round, he thought.

Pir Pagaro flatly rejected the proposal to conduct polls within 90 days and said it was "impracticable." He explained that the political parties stood disbanded and, therefore, they required adequate time to reorganize themselves, hold elections at all tiers, draft manifestors etc. for which a period of one year and a quarter was needed before the "political government," already installed as an interim measure, could conduct nationwide polls.

Pir Sahib sarcastically said that certain parties, including the PPP, which had not been organized through a democratic process, may not want any time for re-organizing their cadres.

He stressed that political parties have to be equipped with politico-economic programmes and organize a band of selfless workers to carry conviction with the electorate.

He was asked whether he had proposed to have Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq as the prime minister, in addition to his current position as the CMLA and the president. Pir Sahib explained that a "political government" would have to be led by a politician. For this, he said, there must be an understanding beforehand.

In case no such understanding is reached then, obviously, the office of the prime minister would have to be entrusted to Gen. Zia.

Pir Pagaro had the letter read out which he had sent to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq on June 9, 1980, after having obtained the approval of the PML working committee. In that letter, he had spelled out the five points which could become what he called the talking points. Later, when the PML-JUP alliance came into being, a sixth point, namely, the Islamisation of laws, was added.

The five points listed in the Pir Sahib's letter to President Zia were: Withdrawal of press censorship; revival of political parties; allowing of political activities, to begin with, within the four-walls' forum; restoration of the powers of courts and withdrawal of the constitutional amendment through which these (judicial) powers were curtailed; and the formation of the central and provincial governments from amongst the members of the political parties.

The central government will decide the time-schedule and guarantee fairness of elections in order to enable the people ultimately to have a government of their choice, he added.

POLITICAL LEADER NOT TO BE EXPELLED FROM SIND

GF060510 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 29 Jan 82 p 1

[Excerpt] Karachi, 28 Jan -- The Sind provincial government had withdrawn the order directing Sherbakhsh Mazari, president of the National Democratic Party, to leave Sind Province. This was announced today by the deputy interior secretary of the Sind provincial government.

VELAYATI INTERVIEWED ON RETURN FROM U.N.

LD071142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who visited New York to take part in the extraordinary session of the United Nations, arrived in Tehran at 0745 this morning. He was welcomed at the airport by the deputy in charge of economic and international affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with other officials of this ministry. After his return to Tehran, Mr Velayati was questioned by our correspondent on the results of his trip. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Velayati, what was the result of your trip to the extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly?

[Answer] One of the minor objectives of this trip was that, as you know, the satanic powers all over the world and their agents in the region have recently spread the rumor that Iran has relations with Israel. Naturally, our active and effective participation in an assembly which had opposition to Israel as its main objective will practically neutralize such propaganda, especially since there were no other delegations, or at least we did not see any, as active on the same level as Iran. This was noted by other countries taking part in the session and was mentioned by our friends in their discussions. [end recording]

MUSAVI INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN REPRESENTATION

LD071120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi met with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At this meeting he briefed the imam on the latest developments and on the country's current affairs. At the end of the meeting the prime minister talked to our reporter about the points raised at his meeting with the imam in connection with the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, the country's internal security, the bill on reorganization of government departments, and on Iran's propaganda activities abroad. We now draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] In view of the recent visit to the United Nations by our minister of foreign affairs, would you please tell us about the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to its foreign policy?

[Answer] We are becoming more active on the international scene; we are expanding our relations. The presence of our minister of foreign affairs at the United Nations and his meetings during this visit with several high-ranking officials of a number of countries can be very influential in determining and clarifying the main lines of our foreign policy and the expansion of our relations with the outside world.

This is what we have neglected up to now and we have not done enough in this connection. This trip can be considered a successful one, especially in view of the decision taken by the UN General Assembly.

Of course, I met Mr Velayati a while ago, on his way back from the airport. I have not received a detailed report as yet but from what I have heard and from the information I have received the trip was very beneficial and constructive.

Other than that, Iran has begun diplomatic moves all over the world through its representative offices, and naturally the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is making a lot of progress. This point is important because of the role it plays in introducing our regime to the world political scene. [end recording]

RAFSANJANI MEETS WITH SYRIAN GRAND MUFTI

LD062040 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Feb 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Shaykh Ahmad Kaftaru, the grand mufti of Syria; Marwan Shiku, a deputy in the Syrian Parliament; Mahmud Kaftaru, the head of Syria's Islamic foundation; together with Mr Madian, deputy prime minister [as heard] in charge of the 'Awqaf organization; and Mr Nezamzadeh, the imam's representative to the 'Awqaf organization, met and conferred with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis, this evening.

At this meeting the grand mufti of Syria put forward a proposal to form an international Islamic majlis consisting of knowledgeable and Muslim people and Islamic theologians of all Muslim countries. He emphasized the need for the unity of Shi'ites and Sunnis and, referring to the export of the Islamic revolution, he said: I see that youths abroad work without expecting anything in return. There are many people who serve Islam and Islamic thought is well spread. We ask our youths to be clever in their work since the super-powers are afraid of the export of the revolution. We always think about ways of exporting the revolution; even in the Syrian majlis this is followed.

The grand mufti of Syria, in another part of his speech, said: When I was in America, in my speeches to university students I said that the era of church and communism has ended. Now, Islam is widely accepted.

Then Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, welcoming them said: Islam is an ideology which spreads by itself and we do not want to interfere. We have announced repeatedly that we do not intend of interfere in the affairs of other countries. We wish to present Islam alone and this is what the enemy is afraid of.

About the proposal made by the grand mufti of Syria to form an international Islamic majlis, the speaker said: We cannot attempt such an act without the necessary preparation. We are considering this proposal and our future and the future of Islam is hopeful.

FRIDAY IMAM DECLARES U.S. IS MAIN ENEMY

LD052258 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Today's Friday prayers were held all over the country with the participation of the committed and Muslim people. Friday prayers in Tehran were held at Tehran University and led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Yazdi. Foreign guests participated in the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Yazdi, in his first sermon, praised the cultural revolution and said: In order to change our universities into Islamic universities and effect the cultural revolution we should not stop at altering a few textbooks, changing some syllabuses, or admitting a number of clergymen into universities; by cultural revolution, we mean that the spirit of Islam should be brought into universities and the spirit of Islam and its warmth should be felt in classes, by lecturers and students. This cannot be achieved easily. It is not enough to say that subjects like psychology, statistics, geography and so forth should become Islamic; rather, the spirit of Islam should be felt at all university levels.

The acting Friday imam of Tehran, in his second sermon, referred to the role of prophets in establishing [word indistinct] and justice among people. He commented on the government before the Islamic revolution, which had a semblance of Islam, and said:

[Begin recording] The Islamic revolution of Iran had and still has many enemies and even now they are opposing it in different ways, through physical opposition or by engaging in cold, or actual, war. The important point is to recognize the main enemy.

The leader of the revolution cautioned the nation before the revolution to recognize the main enemy; now, after the victory of the revolution, the same issue prevails. When the imam said that no one was allowed to come to Iran on the pretext of mediating on the issue of the occupation of the den of espionage -- saying that even if there were mediators on their way to Iran they should return, and that the United States had no right to send people here -- many people could not accept it easily. But the imam had this one point in mind: The main enemy of Islam and Muslims -- not only in Iran but in the whole world, especially in the region and for Islamic countries -- is in the first place the United States. Even Zionism, whose enmity and hostility toward Islam and Muslims has been clear throughout the history of Islam ever since the day that it took the shape of a party, gathered its forces and prepared plans to confront the Muslims, it was quite obvious from the imam's point of view and his directives that even Israel -- being a recognized enemy of Islam and Muslims -- is itself only a tool used by America and is nothing without the support of the United States.

Therefore, the first step to be taken is to correctly recognize the enemy and then confront the main core of enmity and war so that forces are not wasted. That is, before the Gulf Cooperation Council was formed, before Jordan's Husayn put forward his proposals, before the issue of the annexation of the Golan Heights was realized and before other steps were taken, we clearly knew that the main enemy was America and all the rest were lackeys and agents of the United States and were acting under U.S. influence. It is the United States that is determined to stop the penetration, growth and movement of this revolution and resorts to any means in order to achieve this end. On the first day that Iraq began its aggression by attacking our airports, it was quite obvious for us that Iraq was incapable of confronting Iran alone or challenging Iran to a war. Iraq is not big enough to wage war against Iran. Iraq cannot enter into direct war against Iran.

These days, with Saddam's death imminent and all political analysts of the world forecasting an end to the war with Iran's victory, these gentlemen [not further identified] resort to new tactics, putting forward new solutions, such as the formation of the cooperation council. Even if all these forces get together, they will not amount to more than the force at work when America ruled directly over Iran. [end recording]

At the end of his second sermon, the acting Friday imam of Tehran delivered a sermon in Arabic for the benefit of the Arab brothers in Muslim countries.

FRIDAY IMAM ASSAILS JORDAN'S HUSAYN IN SERMON

GF051052 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0910 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Arabic Friday sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammad Yazdi, acting Tehran Friday imam and Majlis deputy, at Tehran University on 5 February -- live]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On the third anniversary of the Islamic revolution and in honor of this great day on which the shah's file in Iran was closed and the pillars of Islam and the Islamic revolution were established, we receive dear guests who have come to us from all parts of the Islamic world and the world of the oppressed to see at close hand the Islamic fervor of the youths and martyrs of this land. These guests have come to view the Islamic revolution's achievements and the effect of the crimes of the arch-Satan's bloody spearhead and despicable agent, Saddam at-Tikriti. They have come to see the secret of our victory, which has been achieved as a result of our having a great leader, Imam Khomeyni. [chants and cheers] They have come to see the sharp division between right and wrong, a division that has been made clearer by the red line of martyrdom and the cry of "God is great."

Who knows why Iran, which during the shah's reign was subservient to the United States and maintained close ties with Israel -- the enemy of Islam and the Arabs -- and which today is the number one enemy of the United States and Israel and has been at war with them since the beginning of the revolution, is the target of such an all-out attack? Why is it the target of the campaigns of puppet propaganda trumpets?

What free man in the world does not know about the just stand of Islamic Iran, particularly under circumstances in which the United States has resorted to the law of the jungle and has exercised the veto in favor of its foundling, Israel, to encourage its aggression in usurping Islamic territory? Who does not know about Iran's just stand under circumstances in which conspiracies are sweeping the Muslim world and amid the conspiracies of King Husayn -- the traitor and murderer of thousands of Muslim Palestinians? This traitor has mustered his efforts to fight Islam and Islamic Iran to assist the (?aggressor) Saddam. May both of them end up in hell.

Today, while we are on the threshold of the century of the fall of the oppressors and the century of the sovereignty of Islam and Muslims, we once again beseech the leaders of Muslim countries to arise, join the procession of Islam and their Muslim peoples and desist from adopting conspiratorial stands against Islam and the Islamic Republic. These stands serve the interests of the plundering and criminal United States and the atheist and criminal Soviet Union.

We also urge all Muslims to do what Almighty God has requested: "Stand unto God two by two and one by one and then reflect." [Koranic verse] We urge you, Oh Muslims, to arise and purge Muslim socieities of those like the traitorous Husayn of Jordan.

Oh peoples of the Muslim world, you must benefit from the Iranian people's experience in struggling under the banner "If you support God, He will support and guide you." [Koranic verse]

KING HUSAYN'S PARTICIPATION IN WAR ASSAILED

TA051518 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Unattributed commentary: "The Adventurism and the Plots of Shah Husayn the Jordanian Are Doomed to Failure"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Finally U.S. imperialism -- the great Satan -- once again resorted to one of the small satans up its sleeve, namely, Shah Husayn, the king of Jordan, and is striving to use this subservient agent in its plots and aggressions against liberated Iran.

As we are aware, Shah Husayn recently declared that he will participate in the imposed Iran-Iraq war, which itself is one of the plots of imperialism and Zionism against our emancipated homeland, by sending so-called volunteer Jordanian units.

Without doubt this adventurous measure by the Jordanian regime is tantamount to a flagrant declaration of war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This plot was prepared by the Pentagon and the CIA and its implementation was assigned to the mercenary Shah Husayn. What is also not in doubt is that this treacherous act by King Husayn cannot have the endorsement of the Muslim people of Jordan, for they are well aware that the real initiator of this plot is the self-same world-devouring America which has imposed and is supporting certain filthy elements such as the Jordanian Husayn upon the people of the fettered Arab countries. Yes, Shah Husayn's muscle flexing is a link in the chain of conspiratorial and aggressive activities by imperialism, headed by the United States and international Zionism, which is striving by all means to deal a blow to the Iranian nation's revolution and to weaken the combat front of the Arab nations against Israel, the aggressor.

King Husayn himself and his gang are too insignificant to be able to accomplish anything in the war against the liberated Iranian nation and country. It is U.S. imperialism which by this adventurous act is pursuing two main objectives -- first, to render the situation in the region more tense and to exploit it for the benefit of its satanic aims; and, second, to divert the attention of the Arab public from Israel's aggressions and to direct it toward Iran, which from the very first days of the revolution's victory has fought and is fighting at the side of all revolutionary forces and Arab peoples against imperialism and Zionism.

Our revolutionary country has declared itself to be among the members of the steadfastness front and is actively and in practice struggling against imperialism and Zionism, and this is the very thing that is frightening imperialism, Zionism and the reactionary Arab regimes. On the other hand, Shah Husayn, who in fact was and is a treacherous ally of As-Sadat, above all fears the people of his country, a people who demand the dismissal of Shah Husayn and the overthrow of his despised regime. The Iranian nation's glorious revolution, by expelling the despised regime of the former shah as an example to other nations, has deprived certain subservient shahs, such as King Husayn, Qabus, the Saudis and others, of their sleep. It is alarm from the impact of the Iranian revolution in these countries that induces their leaders, such as Shah Husayn, to take such adventurous and insane measures. No one can expect otherwise from Shah Husayn -- who has closed his borders to the Palestinian strugglers and is preventing their liberation struggles against the Israeli aggressor -- but to be a tool of the United States and to participate in the adventures of world-devouring America in the imposed war on our homeland.

The Shah Husayns are the small devils up the sleeve of the great Satan, world-devouring America. It is America that makes use of its pawns wherever it sees fit. The Iranian nation is not in conflict with the Shah Husayns, but with U.S. imperialism. King Husayn's treacherous and adventurous measure cannot harm the policy of the Iranian nation and the Islamic Government of Iran in support of the just struggles of the Arab nations against the aggressor and for the liberation of the sacred soil of the Palestinian Arabs form Israel's captivity.

The Iranian people condemn the treacherous and adventurous act of the Jordanian Husayn against the Islamic Republic of Iran and consider themselves to be the co-fighters of the Arab nations against Zionism and imperialism. The joint plot of imperialism and Zionism against liberated Iran -- which this time has been manifested in the futile measures of Shah Husayn the Jordanian in dispatching forces to the imposed war on Iran -- is doomed to failure. U.S. imperialism, too, will not achieve anything from this plot except ignominious defeat. The regimes of King Husayns, as the regime of Mohammad Reza Shah, will be thrown into the garbage heap of history.

SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL HOLDS SESSION 6 FEB

LD062058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 6 Feb 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Supreme Defense Council met tonight under Mr Khamene'i, the president and the head of the Supreme Defense Council. Attending the session were Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative to the council; Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister; Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, the chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Colonel Salimi, the minister of defense; Brother Sham'khani, the acting commander of the Guards Corps; Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni; commanders of the air defense corps; and Brothers Gharazi and Mir-Salim, under secretaries of the Ministry of Interior.

The council discussed the situation on the war fronts and future war plans and made decisions. At the end of this session, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani talked to our reporter about the issues discussed at this session. A detailed version of this interview will be carried when the tapes are ready.

Rafsanjani on Meeting

LD062246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 6 Feb 82

[Correspondent's interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, following the 6 February Supreme Defense Council meeting -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Following Iran's announcement last week regarding the formation of a brigade to be sent to Syria, the speaker of the Iraqi Parliament announced that Iran is responsible for the lives of Iraqi POW's and that they should be protected by Iran. Do you have any comments on this matter?

[Answer] We do not force any of their POW's to fight. In fact, we are releasing all POW's who go to war. They are those who wish to free themselves from Saddam's regime. Even if they were released they would not like to return to Iraq. They want to fight for Islam in protecting the interests of the masses and against imperialism. Those who volunteer to fight in the Golan Heights might even reject their Iraqi citizenship. They are in fact volunteers. We are releasing them and we are handing them over to that brigade, which certainly will not keep them under arrest when they are going to fight. They are going of their own free will. They are either Iraqis who have been expelled from Iraq or those who want nothing more to do with Iraq.

[Question] The trips by Weinberger and Haig, the American secretary of defense and secretary of state, to the region; Jordan's invitation to be host; and the volunteer force which is said to be gathering. What do you think all these represent in this respect?

[Answer] I believe that this is an American move to ensure the continuation of the war. They are coming to support the situation. It is quite obvious even now that there will not be [word indistinct] volunteers, and even if there are volunteers they will be professional officers from Saudi Arabia, Jordan, or countries like them. They will come forward by force if [word indistinct] wants them to. But they will have no one who has come of his own free will. America will have to be there. Of course, even if certain people do not come forward, America has certain people who would come forward in order to give the issue more prominence and warm the hearts of the Iraqis, the Saudis and the rest. This is the same plan as before. They did the same thing at the beginning and that got them to where they are now. It is nothing new. It is a deceitful trick.

Further Details

LD071004 Tehran IRNA in English 0909 GMT 7 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 7 Feb (IRNA) -- Political, economic and war information issues were studied in Saturday's Supreme Defence Council meeting. At the end of the meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative in the council, told reporters that they discussed the travel of families of Iraqi POWs.

Iraq had formerly proposed Switzerland as a place of exchange of Iranian and Iraqi POWs families but the distance posed a problem. Rafsanjani said that it now seemed Iraq agreed with Iran's proposal of Turkey as the centre for exchanging the families of POWs. He said that the Interior Ministry was responsible for this, and Mr Mir-Salim, the ministry's representative, had proposed a project that was approved with some amendments. He also said that to further speed up the issue Iran proposed Kuwait as well as Turkey as another centre for exchange of the families but Iraq has not yet agreed to that. He then said that they also discussed the number of POWs families they could accept and submitted a proposal to the Interior Ministry which should make the final decision, adding that they were waiting to see if Iraq set any limits for accepting Iranian POWS' relatives.

Referring to the claim of the commander of the Iraqi Army who had said that at present Iraq had about 10,000 volunteers, 7,000 of which were Egyptian, Rafsanjani said that the statement was a propaganda stunt to boost the morale of the Iraqi soldiers. He added that Egyptian officials have denied this claim but they conceded that there were some Egyptians working in Iraq and probably some of them had participated in the war.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani added that the main point was that the United States favoured the continuation of the war in order to weaken the two countries, leaving the usurper Zionist regime comfortable. He added that on the other hand Iraq's strength to continue the war was failing and since the United States wanted to bolster Iraq it had granted unsparing financial aid and arms to Iraq. This project was completely an American one, that was why Jordan was to implement it.

About the statements of the Iraqi Parliament speaker charging Iran with the responsibility for the health of those POWs to be dispatched to Syria in the 'Golan Battalion' Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iran did not force the POWs to go, they were volunteers who were liberated to go to Syria. He continued that they were the POWs who did not want to return to Iraq and were willing to fight for Islam in the interests of the people and against imperialism.

TEHRAN: SAUDI REGIME CHOSEN AS GULF 'GENDARME'

GF080443 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Feb 82

[Unattributed commentary: "The U.S. Security Framework of Weinberger's Visit"]

[Text] During the regime of the toppled shah and before the Islamic revolution, Iran was considered one of the U.S. imperialist fortresses and the U.S. spearhead in the region. The shah played the role of gendarme and watchdog over U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf, which is considered the main security zone in the world for the industrialized countries that depend on its energy resources for the moving force of their tremendous industrial foundation.

However, the decline of the shah and the establishment of the Islamic revolution in Iran led to a change in the balance of power in the region and created a huge crack in the U.S. defensive barrier. The new situation to which the Islamic revolution of Iran gave birth urged U.S. departments to work to make up for the great loss the United States sustained in Iran.

One of the U.S. priorities in this regard was to look for the most suitable regime to play the role of gendarme in the Gulf in place of the toppled shah's regime. The Ba'thist regime in Baghdad and the Saudi regime in Hejaz were among the candidate regimes for this role. It seems that the regime of Al-Sa'ud has been chosen for the role at the moment. This is due to the following reasons: First, the Baghdad regime is no longer reliable for such a mission. The political regime has arrived at a crossroads due to the clear effects of the bleak Al-Qadisiyah which has begun to shake the regime. Second, the strategic situation of Hejaz allows the Al-Sa'ud regime more freedom to play the role of Gulf gendarme, especially when Hejaz abuts the Red Sea in the east and the Gulf in the west. Therefore, it is noted that the Western-U.S. trend is jointly dedicated to supporting the Saudi role.

No better evidence can be given than the visits by U.S. officials to Riyadh, the most recent example being Defense Secretary Weinberger's visit which comes immediately after a visit by the French defense minister to Riyadh. The timing of visits by U.S. and French officials to Riyadh indicates the role France is playing within the U.S. framework, which does not contradict the independent course of French policy.

By observing the developments and moves in the region, it becomes clear that the security framework under the U.S. "umbrella" includes the Red Sea in addition to the Gulf region. At first glance a question may arise on the relationship between the Red Sea and the security of the Gulf and the region. Taking into consideration the fact that the U.S. security framework is comprehensive and strategic, a quick look at the map uncovers this organic relationship. The Red Sea is considered the main artery of U.S. and Western oil supplies. Besides, the gateways to the Mediterranean Sea are situated in the Red Sea. Hence we realize the importance of the French arms deal to the Al-Sa'ud regime which mounted to approximately 14.5 billion French francs. This deal included, besides military naval equipment, support for Saudi naval forces and improved performance by them in the Red Sea. If we add the U.S. AWACS deal and F-15 jet fighters to Saudi Arabia, worth some $8.5 billion, the designed role of the Saudi regime and the hopes of the U.S. departments unveil themselves.

Within this U.S. security framework, one cannot ignore the role of the Qabus regime in Oman, especially since the United States enjoys special privileges on Omani territory -- in particular, the Masirah air and naval base. Therefore, Weinberger's visit to the region includes Oman.

The so-called security of the region is the main concern of the U.S. departments. In a statement issued at the end of his visit to Saudi Arabia, Weinberger said he had come to learn the desires of the Saudi Government and to get acquainted with ways that would enable Saudi Arabia and the United States to offer effective subsidies to the Gulf countries in order to improve their security.

In view of this horrible U.S. plan, we leave the matter up to the Islamic people to issue their final judgment. which should be the main obstacle before this plot.

MONTAZERI MEETS WITH GROUND FORCES COMMANDER

LD051710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Col Seyyed-Shirazi, commander of the Iranian Ground Forces met and conferred this afternoon in Qom with Ayatollah Montazeri.

During this meeting the commander presented Ayatollah Montazeri with a report on the battle situation. In his meeting with the ayatollah, Colonel Shirazi elaborated on the clergy's publicity and guidance role as well as the task of the armed forces' political-ideological bureaus. He asked Ayatollah Montazeri to support these efforts.

Ayatollah Montazeri reiterated the needs for greater coordination among the armed forces.

MONTAZERI ADDRESSES JOINT STAFF COMMANDERS

LD071722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Feb 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accompanied by the acting chief and commanders of the Joint Staff, met with Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom today. During this meeting, Ayatollah Montazeri, was presented with a report on the situation at the fronts and current coordination between the armed forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and other combatant forces participating in the war.

Addressing the audience, Ayatollah Montazeri thanked and paid tribute to the audience and said: We hope that under the shadow of our brothers' dedication and their faith in God Almighty, the existing unity and coordination will strengthen every day. He added: Our brothers in the armed forces and the Guards Corps should learn from your experience, education and ability.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 781

LD051726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Communique 781 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The situation regarding the war fronts during the past 24 hours is brought to the attention of the dear compatriots:

Yesterday many of the western and southern fronts of the country witnessed sporadic exchange of artillery and heavy-weapon fire; the fire was most intense in the Meymak region. In yesterday's operations, our powerful combatants defended all their positions and in some areas dealt blows to the enemy through surprise attacks.

Due to intense artillery fire by the ground forces on many of the fronts, a number of tanks and vehicles belonging to the enemy were set on fire and destroyed. A considerable number of trenches and buildings of the Saddamist forces were also destroyed. The heroes of the gendarmerie and the brave combatants of the tribal irregular warfare unit in the regions and fronts of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Ilam, Dar Ballut, Bazi Deraz, Sonboleh and other fronts returned the enemy fire, silencing them and inflicting damages and casualties on the Saddamist forces. As a result of the personnel of the armed forces firing on enemy positions in the Al-Faw region inside Iraq, some damages were inflicted on Saddamist forces and on installations in Al-Faw.

Yesterday, because of the shelling and long-range artillery fire by Saddamist mercenaries, parts of the residential district of Abadan sustained damages and several of our dear Abadani compatriots were martyred or wounded.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 782

LD061736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Feb 82

[Communique 782 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. In the past 24 hours, Iranian artillery has shelled enemy entrenchments and personnel.

In the Sumar region, our forces destroyed an enemy tank and 10 trenches and damaged another tank as well. In Gilan-e Gharb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Dar Ballet, Tang-e Hajiyan, Bazi Deraz, Sonboleh and [word indistinct], the valiant gendarmerie personnel succeeded in destroying an enemy supply bridge. During these operations, a considerable amount of enemy ammunition was destroyed and two tanks and one vehicle were damaged.

The aggressor enemy shelled Abadan yesterday, destroying a number of residences and injuring some civilians.

In the Abadan region, our forces shelled enemy positions and prevented the enemy from moving and advancing. In Khorramshahr, our forces destroyed five observation posts and three trenches.

West of Dezful, Dasht-e Abbas, 'Eyn Khosh and in Shush and Reqabiyeh, our forces continued to defend their fortified positions by shelling enemy positions.

RADIO IRAN NAMES OFFICERS, OTHERS EXECUTED

NC051658 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Text] Compatriots and Iranians who believe in freedom and independence: Maj 'Abdollah Amir-Tahmaseb, (Turaj Yarahmadi), Staff Col (Ebrahim Gheyrati), Staff Col (Asadollah Forughi), (?Infantry Staff Col) Amir Hoseyn 'Abdolmalekpur, Artillery Col (Gholam Hoseyn Rahimi), Col Mahmud Saba, Col (Gholam Hoseyn Beheshtpur), 'Asgar Mojaheri, Mohammad Javad, [name indistinct], Siavosh Tavakkoli, (Golnar Navidmanesh), Staff Col (Nosratollah Didevar), (Golshan Shahandeh Ashtiyani) and Mohammad Khashayar, Iran's dear children, have been sent to their death by the religious despotism.

These people gave their lives for the sake of their sincere belief in the ideals of freedom and independence and for their efforts toward Iran's salvation. We pledge to place (?all) the executioners of Khomeyni's regime, whose hands are stained with the blood of Iran's prolific children, and all those who cooperated in overthrowing national sovereignty and in establishing the domination of religious despotism and who have participated in the crimes of the regime in the hands of justice.

We express our condolences to the families of these pure heroes of freedom and independence, to the Iranian people and to all sympathizers on their martyrdom. May the flames of the Iranian people's rights burn up the castle of injustice in the near future.

Compatriots, strengthen your ranks in the struggle for freedom and in order to inflict the final blow on the [words indistinct] and rotten pillars of the Tehran regime. Only organized struggle, coupled with intelligence, wisdom and solidarity, can put an end to the (?savageries of this rotten and corrupt regime).

Greetings to the martyrs of freedom and independence who gave their lives for Iran after suffering savage torture! Iran shall never die!

[Signed] The National Resistance Movement of Iran, (?30) January 1982

AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW REPORTEDLY KIDNAPPED

GF061645 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 6 Feb 82

[Text] Please pay attention to the news I have just received: Mohammad Mokri, the Khomeyni regime's ambassador to Moscow, who was in Tehran, has been kidnapped from his residence by guards and taken to an undisclosed location. So far the Tehran regime and Iranian media have not confirmed this report. The Free Voice of Iran will provide you with more details of the kidnapping in upcoming programs.

KUNA REPORTS PRICE OF IRANIAN CRUDE OIL CUT

LD051702 Kuwait KUNA in English 1636 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Text] London, 5 Feb (KUNA) -- Iran has cut the price of its oil across the board by one dollar a barrel, according to oil industry sources here Friday. The new price of Iranian light crude is 33.55 dollars a barrel as from today, according to telexes sent to customers today, the sources told KUNA.

The credit period for customers is now 60 days and the 35 cents a barrel which Iran was charging for extending credit from 30 days has been dropped, they added.

The new price undercuts the OPEC marker crude -- Arabian light -- by 45 cents a barrel.